

EVENT PROGRAMME



BEDFORD
RIVER
FESTIVAL
23RD & 24TH
JULY 2022



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Programme sponsored by

GALLAGHER
DEVELOPMENTS

FANTASTIC FREE FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

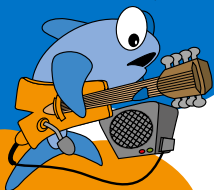
For more information visit <https://riverfestival.bedford.gov.uk>

Russell Park features the River Festival's Main Stage, sponsored by the Harpur Centre.

Expect top performances from a wide range of bands and acts throughout the weekend.

If soaking up the festival atmosphere appeals to you, Russell Park is the place to be.

There is also the Traditional Funfair to keep the little ones entertained.



The **Sports Island** is sponsored by the University of Bedfordshire and will feature sporting and martial arts demonstrations, a stage full of action with acrobatics and dance performances, 'have a go' activities and more.

The Sports Island ethos is all about actively encouraging people to have fun and get involved or stay involved in a wide range of physical activity. Local clubs, organisations and gyms will all be in attendance.

Mill Meadows is a hub of activity during the River Festival, with trade stalls galore and the ever-popular Community Stages, sponsored by the Harpur Trust, showcasing fantastic performances from the community of Bedfordshire. New for 2022, Mill Meadows will feature 'Inclusion Island' which is designed for visitors with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).



The Embankment becomes home to the Festival Market and a multitude of trade stalls, making it the perfect place to peruse a wide variety of both local and regional goods.

You can also keep an eye on the various river activities taking place as you stroll along the riverside, or visit the Dance Stage, sponsored by Gallagher Developments.

The soul of the River Festival is the huge range of **River Activities** taking place that truly bring the River Great Ouse to life, and commemorate the opening of the river from Bedford to the Wash in Norfolk in 1978.

There are boat parades, river races and water demonstrations taking place along the entire length of the Festival site, from St. Mary's Gardens to the Sports Village, so there will always be something to see on the water wherever you are. Sponsored by Henderson & Taylor.

St. Mary's Gardens is the new home of the heritage re-enactments, featuring 'Pirate Island', sponsored by HSBC UK. There are plenty of adventurous activities for the kids brought to you by Canoe Trail, and you have a prime viewing spot for the dragon boat races. On the other side of the river, Riverside Square will feature yet more unique vehicles presented by the Festival of Motoring.

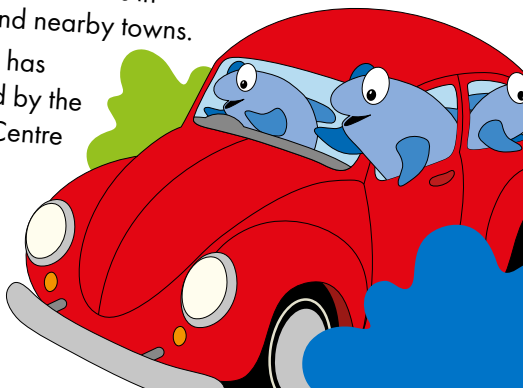


In 2022 **Castle Mound** will host the BBC Introducing Stage and a brand new Vegan Fair. Catch some local up-and-coming talent and browse the range of vegan gifts and homewares on offer.

Castle Mound, which is sponsored by Gallagher Developments, has also long offered an excellent viewing spot for the raft races and the illuminated boat parade on Saturday evening.

Visit the newly rejuvenated **High Street**, sponsored by Bedford BID, to not only see the wonderful businesses and hospitality options that we have all year round but also to admire 'The 100', presented by the Festival of Motoring. You can also pull up a deckchair on Town Bridge and enjoy the rousing classical tunes performed by some of the best bands in Bedfordshire and nearby towns.

The High Street has been supported by the Bedford Town Centre Priority fund.



Event Sustainability

For the first time at the Bedford River Festival we will be working with our Festival bars provider 3BIG Events Ltd to operate a reusable cup scheme across all nine of the Festival bars. There will be a £1 charge with the first drink for the cup. You can return that cup back to any of the Festival bars and get a clean cup with your next drink.

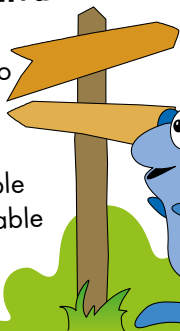
The Council will be providing General Waste and Mixed Recycling bins across the entire site for public use, along with additional bins to collect unwanted bar cups so they can continue their reusable life cycle.

The River Festival team is committed to addressing its impacts to the environment. In this endeavour, we are deterring the use of single-use plastics at the Bedford River Festival.

How to get to the Bedford River Festival

For information on how to get to the event via car, bus, train, bike or foot, please go to **<https://riverfestival.bedford.gov.uk>**.

We would like visitors to consider how they travel to the event and where possible use public transport or use other sustainable modes of transport.



Main River Events

Saturday 23rd July

11am to 4pm: Dragon Boat Race Heats

2pm: Grand Parade of Cabin Boat Cruisers

4pm: Grand Parade of Narrow Boats

5pm: Dragon Boat Race Semi Final

5.30pm: Dragon Boat Race Final

6.30pm: River Swim

7.30pm: Stand Up Paddle Board Race

10pm: Illuminated Boat Parade

Sunday 24th July

12pm: Raft Race
Preparation

1pm: Grand Parade of
Cabin Boat Cruisers

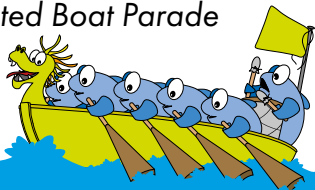
1.30pm: Grand Parade
of Narrow Boats

2.30pm: Raft Race Heats

3.30pm: Raft Race Final

For the full River Events Programme, please visit the website.

New for 2022: The Illuminated Boat Parade will be enhanced to end the Saturday night in an amazing visual display!



Join us on Social Media

Follow our official Facebook, Instagram & Twitter accounts for up-to-date information about the Bedford River Festival.

Use the hashtag **#BedfordRiverFestival** to share your photos & videos of the Festival.

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BedfordBID
Business Improvement District
Funded by Town Centre Businesses
www.lovebedford.co.uk



Festival Friends



Bedfordshire
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For all information
& stage/activity timings,
please scan the QR code
with your smart phone to
visit our website:



<https://riverfestival.bedford.gov.uk>

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